

Riyadh, Tehran close to ending Mecca boycott

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia and Iran are close to breaking Tehran's two-year-old boycott of the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Iranian sources said.

But the question of how many Iranians the kingdom will allow on the Haj is still a divisive issue.

The quota is an important factor in a complicated web involving the claim to spiritual leadership of Islam, stalled peace talks between Iran and Iraq, and the Afghan conflict.

Gulf Arab diplomats said Riyadh and Tehran were keen for an agreement, which might lead to resumed diplomatic ties before the Haj in July.

Riyadh broke diplomatic ties with Tehran after a riot in Mecca in July, 1987, triggered by political protest by Iranian pilgrims, ended with 400 dead, most of them Iranian pilgrims.

Iranian sources said a solution had appeared near following meetings between Iranian and Saudi officials at the organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers' meeting in Riyadh two weeks ago.

But the dialogue has stuck on the quota and Iran's demand that pilgrims should be allowed to use the Haj as a political forum.

"Saudi Arabia is not going to budge on keeping politics out of the Haj," said a Gulf Arab diplomat.

The Iranian sources, who are close to Tehran Parliament members, said Iran could accept the idea of no politics but would then want a higher quota.

Saudi Arabia would allow 50,000 pilgrims on the Haj, Iran is asking for 150,000, the sources said.

Arab diplomats said Saudi Arabia, which Tuesday signed a non-aggression pact with Iraq, would like to see restored relations with Iran to complete the circle of peaceful ties with Gulf Islamic nations.

Egyptian officials Monday tip-

ped King Hussein's current tour to Iraq and Egypt as a new and active Saudi diplomatic effort to smooth over schisms in the Islamic world.

Western diplomats said Iran would like Saudi Arabia, which was Iraq's major financial supporter during the eight-year-long Gulf war, to help break a deadlock in peace talks with Baghdad.

Tehran wants Iraq to withdraw from Iranian territory it says Baghdad's troops still occupy, but its options to achieve this are limited, the diplomats say.

"Iran cannot call for support on the United States, Britain, or France in the United Nations Security Council. The Soviet Union is unlikely to take sides. Only China might help out of the five permanent members," said a European diplomat.

Tehran failed to get Islamic nations to back its call for the killing of British author Salman Rushdie for writing "The Satanic Verses," a book Muslims consider blasphemous.

Western diplomats said that Saudi Arabia, challenged to respond over the Rushdie affair, had also outflanked Iran over manoeuvres to influence a final settlement in Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia this month was the first country to recognise the Sunni-dominated rebel government, fighting the Moscow-backed government of President Najibullah in Kabul.

Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim rebels walked out of the rebel administration and Iranian newspapers urged Tehran to recognise the Sunni group to block growing Saudi influence.

Iranian sources said earlier this month that Pakistan had offered to be an honest broker to help restore Saudi-Iran ties.



Mujahedeen dodging missiles fired by Afghan government forces in the on-going battle for the city of Jalalabad.

Najibullah invites rebels to talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan

President Najibullah repeated an invitation to Mujahedeen commanders to attend peace talks to end the country's 10-year war and to take a share in government.

In a broadcast over the official Kabul radio Monday, monitored by the BBC, he said he was awaiting a positive response from the rebels.

"Now we have no Russians; so why is there war?" he said referring to the Soviet troop withdrawal completed last month under U.N.-mediated Geneva Accords.

"You want government, so let us have a 'Jirga' (traditional

council) in a peaceful atmosphere," he said. "We all must sit together, make a ceasefire as a first step and then build a government in our home."

"We do not say the country belongs to the PDPA. The country belongs to all of us."

Najibullah said that while inviting the rebel commanders to peace talks, he was not asking them to surrender arms. "You can keep the weapons with yourselves."

He said if the rebel commanders were not ready for talks, they should for the present have a

ceasefire in their areas. "Slowly we will come together for peace talks. The government is ready to help you in any economic situation."

For three weeks rebel forces have been mounting an offensive against the eastern town of Jalalabad which they want to use as a base for an interim government.

The Afghan government Monday reported a lull in the ground fighting around Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan, and said the rebels appeared to be giving up hope of victory.

Ozal plans sweeping cabinet reshuffle

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal Tuesday put final touches to a new cabinet list aimed at restoring public confidence in his government after a crushing defeat in municipal elections.

Ministers resigned en masse Monday night to make way for sweeping changes planned by Ozal, who has defiantly resisted calls for his own resignation and even a general election.

Ozal's Motherland Party was third with 21.9 per cent of the vote in Sunday's nationwide polls which swept it from power in Ankara, Izmir and Istanbul and many other areas.

"The mentality displayed by

Ozal's announcement (of no early election) is extremely worrying," Erdal Inonu, whose Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) topped Sunday's poll with 28.2 per cent of the vote, told reporters.

"He is belittling the fact that the will of the nation has turned against his policy and administration... this attitude will lead Turkey into crises and insoluble quarsels," he added.

Ozal, a 61-year-old pro-Western conservative in office since three years of army rule ended in 1983, said Monday he would announce a new cabinet within days after it was endorsed by President Kenan Evren.

Political sources said a reshuffle of the 22-member cabinet was likely to increase the number of ministers from the Western-oriented liberal wing of the Motherland, a loose-knit alliance which also embraces politicians from the Muslim right.

They said Ozal's brother, State Minister Yusuf Ozal who oversees the economy, nephew and Agriculture Minister Huseyin Dogan and Education Minister Hakan Celal Guzel, were among likely casualties.

Defence Minister Ercan Vuralian, embroiled in legal action over allegations, which he denies, of misuse of public funds

while a career diplomat, may also be dropped, the sources said.

Ozal was criticised during election campaigning for heavy reliance on family members for advice, and for free-wheeling economic policies which have pushed up inflation to 72 per cent.

The government, seeking to allay instability fears among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and other allies, said in a statement its "international economic policy and relations will continue unchanged."

"The local elections... will not affect in any way the political balance and parliamentary arithmetic," it added.

Sudan appeals for help

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan Monday appealed for help in fighting an outbreak of the disease meningitis which has killed 102 people in the past two weeks. Sadeq Mahjoub Al Tayeb at the Endemic and Epidemic Department of the Sudanese Health Ministry said 2,548 people caught meningitis in and around the capital Khartoum since the spread of the disease last December. He said a total of 250 died, 102 of them during the period March 10-24. "We have appealed to the World Health Organisation (WHO) to assist the Sudan in combating the disease," he said. Early this month, Western health officials said an outbreak of meningitis that had taken heavy casualties in Ethiopia had spread into southern Sudan and claimed 400 lives.

'Rajavi's sister held, executed'

NICOSIA (AP) — Mujahedeen Khalq, Iran's main opposition group, claimed Monday that the sister of its leader, Massoud Rajavi, has been executed after torture in an Iranian prison.

Tehran had no immediate comment on the allegation, but its official media reported new arrests in the wide-spread crackdown on drug smuggling and addiction in the country.

A statement sent by telex to the AP in Nicosia from Paris, where Mujahedeen Khalq, or People's Warriors, has its information headquarters, said Monireh Rajavi, had been arrested along with her husband, Asghar Nazemi, in 1982.

It said Nazemi was executed in 1985 and his wife was tortured for several years after that before being executed. It said she was 38 years old.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime, the Mujahedeen charged, has refused to admit that the woman has been put to death.

The statement claimed that the couple's only offense was that the woman was the sister of Rajavi, who in addition to being Mujahedeen's leader, also is commander of the National Liberation Army, a coalition of Iranian dissident factions based in Iraq.

Thatcher was speaking at a banquet in her honour Monday night hosted by King Hassan during a 24-hour visit to Marrakesh on her way to southern Africa.

Thatcher urges quick action in Mideast

MARRAKESH (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in Morocco on the first leg of a six-day African tour, has made an urgent call for immediate efforts to stabilise the Middle East situation.

Thatcher was speaking at a banquet in her honour Monday night hosted by King Hassan during a 24-hour visit to Marrakesh on her way to southern Africa.

"No one should be in doubt that the present situation in the Middle East is fundamentally unstable and cannot continue," she said. "It is time for well-prepared negotiations to begin. Never has the need for a solution been more urgent."

The British leader favours an international Middle East peace conference as a means of trying to solve the conflict.

Thatcher noted that King Hassan, unusually for an Arab leader, had held talks in 1986 with Shimon Peres, then Israel's prime minister.

Calling it a "courageous move," she told the Moroccan monarch: "As you said then, nothing is ever lost by exploring the views of one's opponents. That is an example from which Israel can learn."

Thatcher left Morocco early Tuesday and will stop briefly in Lagos where she will have an airport meeting with President Ibrahim Babangida before spending a further three days in Zimbabwe and Malawi.

Lebanon's spring tainted by war in mountains

By Samia Nakhlou

Reuter

ALEY, Lebanon — Spring is in the air in Lebanon's Druze villages, but it is accompanied by the stench of war.

The pine-clad hills, dotted with a riot of spring blossoms, are slashed and torn by the ugly scars caused by exploding artillery shells.

Hundreds of shells have crashed into the fields around the mountain town of Aley, five kilometres northeast of the main battlezone, during the past 10 days.

Amid the beauty, villagers



ROYAL VISIT: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday visited the Ministry of Tourism and met with Minister Yana Bilkam and ministry Secretary General Nasri Atallah. The Prince was briefed on the ministry's programmes and developments in the Kingdom's tourism industry.

Jordanian industrial fair opens in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday opened an industrial fair here displaying samples of various nationally manufactured products.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan Ibn Mohammad Al Nahyan opened the week-long fair in which 90 Jordanian businesses are displaying samples of industrial, pharmaceutical, engineering, supply and agricultural products as well as traditional handicrafts.

The fair is part of Jordanian week-long activities which include cultural and artistic functions reflecting the national cultural and folkloric heritage.

Jordan's ambassador to the UAE Zuhair Sakkijha and senior UAE officials were present at the opening ceremony. Sakkijha said later that the idea of the fair, which was created here last year during the first Jordanian cultural week, is designed to increase the volume of trade between Jordan and the UAE, and to open the way for joint venture.

The two countries are currently holding contacts to set up a joint committee to help organise economic and trade relations between them along the lines of other agreements between Jordan and Arab states, Sakkijha.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

JPA PRAISES AL HUSSEIN: The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Tuesday voiced pride in His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership and his untiring efforts to support the pan-Arab causes and unify Arab ranks. In a cable to King Hussein, the newly elected president and board members lauded the distinguished and sincere efforts made by the King and the other Arab leaders of Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen, saying that their efforts have culminated in the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council. They also pledged to be loyal and honest in dealing with the national and pan-Arab causes. (Petra).

MILITARY ISSUES: Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh Tuesday received at his office the visiting Iraqi military delegation headed by General Sultan Hashem Ahmad on issues of interest to the armed forces in both Iraq and Jordan. (Petra).

STAMPS: Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, the Soviet Cultural Centre and the Jordan Philatelic Club Thursday held the Jordanian-Soviet stamps exhibition at Alia Art Gallery. (Petra).

OPEN FORUM: The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Association for the Education of the Child holds an open forum Wednesday to discuss the modern methods of teaching kindergarten children and pre-school programmes and activities. The meeting will be attended by kindergarten teachers from Amman area. (Petra).

LECTURE: British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve Tuesday delivered a lecture on the Jordanian-British relations at the Jordan Intercontinental hotel. The lecture was organised by the Amman Rotary Club. (J.T.).

FAREWELL: Ministers of Information and Industry and Trade Tuesday received the French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leterrier, who called at both ministers to bid farewell at the end of his tour of duty in Jordan. Information Minister Hanif Khasawneh also received the Australian Ambassador to Jordan Graham Robert Bowker. (Petra).

ROTARIANS: Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan 650 Rotarians will hold a three-day regional conference starting Thursday March 30 at the Royal Cultural Centre. The Rotarians will include Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Bahrain, Cyprus and Sudan. (Petra).

FIRST CLASS: "Lufthansa First Class for an extra DM 80" — this offer to Lufthansa Business-Class passengers in Europe is valid up to the end of May. From March 20, they can move up a class for DM 80 per flight (or the equivalent in national currency). With the exception of Eastern Europe and Malta, the offer applies to all European routes. (J.T.).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.

- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammed Al Jalouz at Alia Art Gallery.

- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh.

- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.

- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.

- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.

- ★ A book exhibition at the Wasif Tal Industrial School, Irbid.

SEMINAR

- ★ A seminar with Prof. Dr. Dieter Weise, Professor of Middle East Economics at the Free University in Berlin at the Royal Scientific Society — 3:00 p.m.

ICDO, UNDRO sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) and the office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) recently signed an agreement on cooperation in relieving victims of natural disasters according to Lieutenant-General Khaled Tarawneh.

Civil Defence Department Director Tarawneh, who heads the ICDO's executive council said that under the agreement both organisations will exchange publications and hold training programmes to provide relief services to victims of natural disasters around the world.

Tarawneh who attended the meeting when the agreement was signed said that Jordan has been active in the ICDO activities which involved training of personnel to provide civil defence services.

Saudi fund director tours valley

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sandi Development Fund, Mr. Mohammad Al Saghir, Tuesday toured the Jordan Valley region inspecting road projects and agricultural schemes carried out by the public sector.

Accompanied by the secretary general of the Ministry of Public Works Khalaf Huwari and Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani, Saghir visited Ghor Haditha's Zara road project, and a major irrigation project in the southern regions of the Jordan Valley, and was briefed on the two schemes.

Later, he called at Ghor Al Safi area and inspected a JVA project to benefit from rain water collected in wadis and valleys to expand the agricultural land.

The Saudi fund has provided loans for these projects.

Roads claim 8 lives last week

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of eight people were killed and 122 others injured in 278 road accidents in Jordan during the past seven days, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the traffic department Tuesday. The bulletin said most of the accidents were caused by drivers disregarding traffic rules and that 80 people were knocked down as a result of these accidents causing them death or injury.

AOAS board convenes

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day meeting by the executive board of the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) which opened here Monday has reviewed the organisation's achievements in the past year and studied the 1988 final accounts and a general report on administrative activities.

Among the questions discussed at Tuesday's session were outstanding matters connected with the organisation's former headquarters in Cairo. The board endorsed a general strategy for the organisation to be carried out between 1990 and 1995, according to an AOAS official.

Egyptian official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Ministry of Industry's First Under Secretary Yousef Mazhar arrived in Amman Tuesday at the beginning of a two-day official visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on means of further developing bilateral economic relations.

Symposium discusses crime against women

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A one-day symposium on women vis-a-vis crime and punishment held at the Amman Plaza hotel Tuesday heard the views of specialists who maintained that crimes committed to women in Jordan were at a low level compared with those committed in other Arab and foreign countries.

The symposium, organised by the Arab Women Graduates Club (AWGC) was addressed by Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan who deputised for Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, and reviewed working papers dealing with various forms of crimes.

One of the working papers presented by a representative of the Public Security Department (PSD) said that between 1984 and 1988, a total of 89,154 crimes were committed in the Kingdom, 67 per cent of which were related to women. Crimes involving women, the paper said, ranged from rape, theft, physical assault

and moral offences. There was a noticeable increase in assaults on women during 1983 with the total accounting for 52 per cent of all crimes committed in Jordan during that year, the paper pointed out. It said that women aged 18 to 27 were found to have been involved in 55 per cent of the total crimes which affected Jordanian and non-Jordanian women.

AWGC President Mawiyah Al Bakri maintained that crimes involving women in the country were very limited in number compared with crimes of the same type in other countries, thanks to PSD efforts and to a general good moralistic behaviour that dominates the Jordanian society.

One of the working papers dealt with the killing of women for their involvement in immoral behaviour and another, covered rape cases. The two papers outlined circumstances in which such crimes have been committed, legislations governing such crimes and penalties imposed on the offenders and murderers.

64 Italians in Jordan for 4-day safari tour

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 64 Italian tourists arrived in Aqaba Tuesday for a several-day safari tour of Jordan during which they are expected to tour most of the Kingdom in their specially designed Fiat Panda cars.

The group, the first of its kind from Italy to come to Aqaba under a special programme prepared by the Ministry of Tourism, are expected to spend four days in the country. The group will visit Aqaba, Wadi Rum and the southern desert before heading to the eastern desert Wednesday to camp there. Following that, the group will take the desert highway to Qatranch, Karak and Wadi Araba and then head to Petra for an overnight camping.

Members of the group are also scheduled to spend two days in Aqaba before departing for Rome from the port city.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Ministry of Tourism held a welcome reception for the 64 tourists and prepared a tour programme for them. Petra said the group will tour archaeological and touristic sites around the Kingdom.

Their visit comes in the context of efforts by both the private and public sector to promote Jordan as a destination for various activities from the sun and fun of the beach to the lavish banquets in historic castles around the Kingdom.

Earlier this month, Petra quoted ministry officials as saying

Attiga hails ACC

AMMAN (Petra) — Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the coordinator of the U.N. activities of Jordan, Ali Attiga Tuesday said that the programme maintains close cooperation with the Jordanian government and that the programme plans to further enhance such cooperation during the fifth development programme cycle which starts in 1991.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra Attiga said the UNDP is currently in the process of undertaking an evaluation study of the fourth programme in Jordan, with a view to ensuring the highest degree of

coordination between the UNDP and the Jordanian authorities. He pointed out that the evaluation process, which will be completed in October, is designed to enhance the U.N. agencies role in Jordan through coordinating their respective activities.

Speaking on the UNDP activities in Jordan, Attiga said that the fourth programme cycle (1988-1991) has allocated \$10 million for development projects in Jordan, including human resources development, support for the production sector and transfer of science and technology.

He pointed out to the UNDP's cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society in the transfer of technology.



Her Majesty Queen Noor places a wreath on the Iraqi martyrs' monument during Her Majesty's visit to Iraq that ended Tuesday.

Queen Noor returns after three-day visit to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday returned home after a three-day visit to the Iraqi capital Baghdad during which she discussed with Iraqi officials ways of developing cultural exchange and expertise between the two countries.

Upon her arrival at Marka airport Tuesday afternoon, Queen Noor was received by His Majesty King Hussein. In Baghdad, Queen Noor was met by Mrs. Saddam Hussein and by the wife of the Deputy President of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) Mrs. Izzat Ibrahim. The Queen was also met by wives of RCC members and cabinet ministers in addition to Jordan's ambassador to Iraq and his wife.

During her stay in Baghdad, Queen Noor visited the Iraqi Martyrs' Monument where she placed a wreath of flowers and read the Fatih. The Queen paid tribute to the Iraqi people for their noble sacrifices and courage in defending their country and the Arab Nation. Queen Noor also made a tour of the Baghdad cemetery and visited the royal cemetery.

Mrs. Saddam Hussein held a dinner banquet in honour of Her Majesty, which was attended by President Saddam's daughters in addition to wives of the RCC members and Iraqi cabinet ministers.

The Queen was accompanied by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation Director General In'am Al Mufti and Mrs. Noor Izzidine.

Queen Noor also visited the Saddam Arts Centre which houses over 5,000 pieces of art works by Iraqi artists, including paintings, ceramic work and sculpture.

The Queen visited the Iraqi house of traditional fashions and attended a special show of Iraqi costumes. The Iraqi house of traditional fashion displayed its traditional costumes at the 1985 Jerash Festival in Jordan.

Queen Noor also visited the Al Qadisiyah Kindergarten and was briefed on the kindergarten's programmes for children by Iraq's general director of social education and awareness.

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Lesson from Turkey

THE results of the municipal elections in Turkey illustrate that bread and butter issues are paramount in the minds of voters in Turkey and elsewhere. The runaway inflation that has reached an annual rate of over 70 per cent in Turkey has hit the Turkish economy and the pockets of the average Turkish citizen with vengeance, and in the process caused havoc in the social, economic and political fabrics of the nation. Obviously one track-minded macro-economist who counselled a one dimensional approach to Turkey's economic woes bear the brunt of the responsibility for the results in Turkey's municipal elections. The fatal error that they had committed was in prescribing policy measures that turned economic and fiscal problems into political ones. Thus, there is a message in all this for all macro-economists who often press for economic and fiscal policies which are sound and proper in their own right but devastating in their cumulative and overall effects. What countries suffering from economic malaises need most is multi-dimensional approaches and panaceas to avoid plunging themselves into deeper woes that transcend economic and fiscal considerations. Uppermost on the minds of economists must be the overall stability and security of the country to which they offer their advice and consent. To fiddle with the harmony of a nation is tantamount to needlessly igniting fires that could consume all. The peculiar circumstances and conditions of each and every country must weigh heavily on the conscious and reasoning of all those who extend a helping hand. In this context inflationary trends caused by a string of necessary economic and fiscal policies aimed to correct irregularities in the economy of a developing country must not be allowed to reach bread and butter issues that affect the average citizen. Accordingly, basic food prices must be maintained even if that entails heavy subsidies. It is too obvious that the alternative to such a course is too dreadful to contemplate. Surely economic experts would see that such a choice is a lesser evil than the one that may have to be dealt with should basic needs of citizens be also affected by high inflationary trends. To sum up, all those who are kind enough to want to help a country help itself are kindly invited to see the total picture and not just hits and pieces. No developing country can afford the luxury of abstract experiments.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE situation in Lebanon is the subject of Al Ra'i's editorial Tuesday. The paper described as appalling the current situation in Beirut and the surrounding areas, and said that innocent people are falling victim to the greed of the warring factions and their leaders. This madness, the paper said, should not be allowed to continue; and therefore, the Arab countries through the Arab League mediation mission, ought to find a speedy solution. The paper said that the situation is worrying all Arabs who created the six member committee to try to end the fighting and open the way for peace and therefore, this committee should now insist on a ceasefire to save the Lebanese people from death and then continue its efforts for a lasting solution. There is nothing impossible to achieve if the concerned parties are really interested in peace, the paper noted. It said that the committee members have already overcome several obstacles, but they have a responsibility to save innocent people from death and an Arab capital from total destruction.

Al Dostour daily newspaper also commented on the situation in Lebanon which, it said, is getting out of hand due to the stubbornness of the warring factions. The paper said that the Arab mediation committee is now counted on to find a solution to the problem and an end to the fighting as a first step to build bridges of understanding and trust. But the Arab committee which has been striving to arrange a ceasefire and which remains as the only hope for peace in Lebanon can do nothing to bring peace and achieve its mission unless there is genuine and sincere desire on the part of all factions and parties to reach a settlement, the paper noted. It said that the members of the committee have been patient and pursuing their mission with great care and diligence, but the Lebanese leaders seem to be indifferent to its work; and instead, have been preferring confrontation rather than negotiation. It said that there can be no end to the ordeal of the Lebanese people unless the heads of the factions placed their country's interest above all others.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the opening of a conference on bio-technologies in Amman with the participation of 11 Arab countries. This scientific conference emphasises the important role of science and technology in development and the subjects being discussed by participants stand out as witness of the concern of Arab countries to develop their economies and promote their industries, the paper said. Jordan for its part showed ample interest in the meeting by presenting several working papers and taking part in all the discussions which are designed to give impetus to research centres which in turn can benefit socio-economic development in the country, the paper noted. It said that cooperation among Arab states in scientific and technological fields is bound to give a real boost to the development process now going on in the Arab World.

Who benefits from arms trade?

By Riad Al Khouri

STATES have always relied on military forces to further their interests and enhance security, and this will probably remain the case. But where are the legitimate and reasonable limits of spending on defence, and what are the economic consequences of the spiralling arms buildup everywhere in the world today? Fifty years ago European politicians summed up the problem in the catch-phrase "guns or butter," the idea being that the more of an economy's resources were devoted to armaments, the less would be available for satisfying consumer needs. Nevertheless, rich countries today can afford both guns and butter, but what about poorer, developing states? The press is full of reports of huge arms purchases by Middle East and other Third World countries which are either short of cash, or have pressing development problems, or both. The underdeveloped states continue to spend massive amounts on weapons, to the immense satisfaction of the world's rich. The simple fact is that manufacturing and trading in arms is big business. Internationally only oil and tourism are in the same league as armaments. But it now seems that the international arms trade is going through a rough period. According to Wolfgang Hoffman, writing in the West German *Die Zeit* "after an arms boom in the 1960's and 1970's the trade has marked time in the 1980's." The NATO states have been overproducing arms, a problem that has only been papered over by increasing reliance on exports. Western countries account for 15 to 20 per cent of arms imports, the Warsaw Pact for about 10 per cent, and the Third World for 70 to 75 per cent. Hoffman notes that the Western share of the market is not big because Western industrial states have arms factories of their own and are largely independent of the Americans who remain the world's

leading weapon exporters. West Germany, the West's biggest arms importer, produces 85 per cent of its own weapons needs, up from 50 per cent in the 60's. But West Germany and other Western states need, for reasons of cost-effectiveness, to produce arms in larger quantities than they themselves require. They therefore have no choice but to export. Among the increasing number of countries which manufacture more arms than are needed to meet their own requirements are France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, and the overall arms output of the NATO states is about 30 per cent higher than their needs.

There is not only competition between countries for exports; individual manufacturers also vie fiercely with each other. For example, eight firms in six NATO states make air-to-air missiles, sixteen firms in seven states manufacture air-to-ground missiles, and ten firms in seven states produce air-to-sea missiles. (The Warsaw Pact has fewer such problems since weapons systems are carefully standardised.) So the West continued to overproduce weapons, and as long as purchasing power in the Third World in general and the oil-exporters in particular was maintained, disposing of this surplus was no problem. The volume of arms sales to the Third World doubled during the 60's and then quadrupled in the 70's. But this trend is unlikely to continue with developing countries deep in debt and oil revenues going down. And to make competition tighter, Argentina, Brazil, China and the two Koreas, among other more advanced developing countries, are beginning to produce weapons on a large scale.

Unfortunately, the Middle East looms very large in the international arms equation. The combination of big amounts of

surplus cash and hot and cold wars means that the region is an arms salesman's dream. The British are among the world's largest and most sophisticated weapon manufacturers and 75 per cent of their arms exports go to the Middle East. The U.K. government has even set up a special company to provide export finance service for manufacturers of armaments. The list of arms deals between the West and the countries of this region gets longer as tension mounts within and around many states which are not really at war. Given the siege mentality in some of the countries of the region, this will cut into development expenditure as nervous governments prefer to maintain spending on weapons to cope with real or imagined internal or external threats. Obviously, a certain amount of defence spending is essential for any country. Equally obvious is the fact that increasing violence and spreading tension are good for businesses (and governments) in the West who manufacture and export arms.

Could it, therefore follow that the West has an interest in maintaining war and warlike activity in the Middle East? True, the West contains more than just weapons salesmen, but the fact remains that tension in our region is making a lot of people in Western Europe and North America richer.

Meanwhile the waste and destruction in the Middle East go on. From an economic point of view the money that is often spent on inappropriate and expensive weapons systems could go to sectors and countries in the region which are starved of cash. In the long run, building another school or university will do a lot more to defend and develop the Middle East than buying ever more deadly and hopelessly sophisticated weapons.

Substance not formalities

By Susan Hattis Rolef

MOST Israelis were extremely upset and disturbed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that the recent attempt by the armed Palestinians intercepted in southern Lebanon to get to Israel was not an act of terrorism justifying a U.S. decision to break off the dialogue with the PLO.

Technically speaking, the new secretary of state was right. When the Palestinians were intercepted and killed, all they could be accused of was attempted infiltration. To have supported an accusation of terrorism, they would have had to be carrying specific plans which would indicate that their target was civilian; to have actually placed explosives or thrown a bomb in a public place with the aim of killing and maiming passers-by; or to have attempted to take hostages. They might, of course, have been on their way to attack a military vehicle or camp, in which case their acts could have been defined as "guerrilla warfare." So much for technical definitions.

In point of fact, it is doubtful whether Baker was really concerned with definitions of "Who's a terrorist." What he was trying to do was to get the U.S. out of a corner.

The previous administration had, *inter alia*, conditioned its dialogue with the PLO on the latter's abstaining from terrorist acts. The new administration is apparently eager to continue the dialogue, no matter what. So the only way it could get around the problem of the intercepted Palestinians — a problem created by Israel's insistence on bringing the event to its attention — was either to go back on the original conditions, or to deny that the conditions had been violated.

Baker chose to do the latter.

When Henry Kissinger first conditioned U.S. contacts with the PLO on its acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and its renunciation of terrorism, Israel considered this a major diplomatic victory. At the time, Israel would have preferred a straightforward American declaration that the PLO was not a partner for negotiations no matter what. But since this was not possible, the declaration of conditions was a welcome second best, especially since it was not believed that the PLO would ever fulfil them.

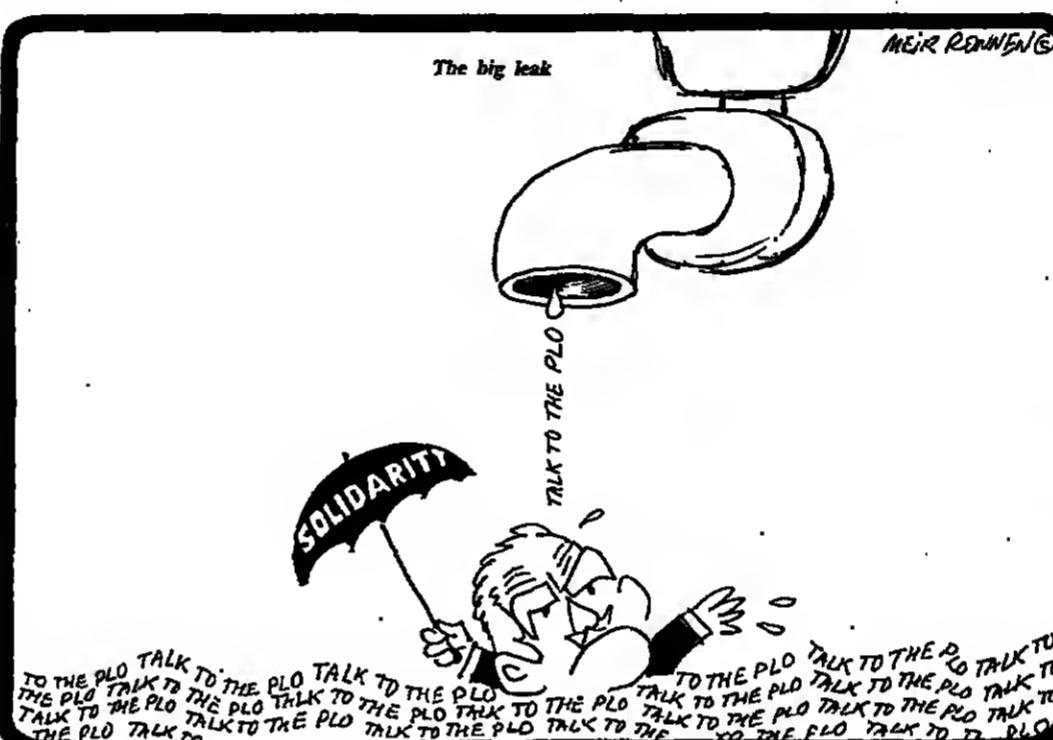
Israel itself never stated that it would talk to the PLO under certain conditions; and to the present day, official Israeli policy is an unqualified rejection of any contacts.

This policy makes sense if one denies the existence of a Palestinian national movement; refuses to consider giving up a single inch of "Eretz Yisrael" in any circumstances; and views the PLO as being bent on the liquidation of Israel as a Jewish state. In that case, it makes no difference whether the PLO is or is not a terrorist organisation, whether its leaders are or are not trustworthy, and whether it does or does not recognise Israel's right to exist.

However, the moment one recognises the Palestinians as a nation with the right to self-determination and the choice of its own leaders; the moment one is willing to relinquish territory in return for peace, and accepts the possibility that the goals of the PLO might be modified to conform with reality, then the rejectionist policy ceases to make any sense.

The question is: What should come in its place?

Should Israel state that under certain conditions it will be willing to talk to the PLO? Or should it perhaps express willingness to talk to the PLO unconditionally?



in order to try to influence its conduct and find out at first hand whether there is any possibility of ever reaching an agreement with it?

The American experience demonstrates the shortcomings of the first approach. If one sets pre-conditions for talks with the PLO and they are fulfilled, one has no alternative but to open talks, even if the timing does not seem opportune. In fact, one is handing the initiative over to the PLO.

On the other hand, one can imagine circumstances in which the PLO refuses to budge, but Israel considers it tactically or strategically a good idea to express willingness to have truck with it. In such a situation, Israel might find the pre-conditions an embarrassment, as did Secretary of State Baker. The setting of pre-conditions might, however, play a tactical role.

This is precisely the role of pre-conditions in the rhetoric of the so-called Israeli peace camp. Most of the spokesmen of this camp have laid down a list of pre-conditions for talks with the PLO which seems to grow longer

the more forthcoming the Palestinian organisation becomes.

The original conditions were that the PLO recognise Israel; accept Security Council resolutions 242 and 338; renounce terrorism and amend or replace the Palestine National Charter. To these have been added lately the demand for a moratorium on the intifada; the abandonment of the claim for "the right of return"; and a declaration that any settlement reached between Israel and the Palestinians will be final.

The problem with this second approach is that there is no guarantee that the peace camp will actually manage to turn a majority of the Israeli public into active supporters of talks with the PLO, and the PLO, after responding to all the pre-conditions, is liable to feel cheated.

Thus instead of hedging, those who understand that talks with the PLO are inevitable (and some of these, incidentally, may be pessimistic about their outcome), ought to concentrate on convincing the public that the potential Israeli participants in such talks have no intention of compromising Israel's security or giving up any of its legitimate demands and requirements. They must also be certain that such talks will bring Israel both tactical and strategic gains.

In the first place, the peace camp needs to legitimise its own positions and activities, in order to prove to the Israeli public that its motives are patriotic and its primary concern is for Israel's security and national interests. Secondly, it seeks to defuse the concrete fears of that part of the Israeli public which does not object to contacts with the PLO on what they really are.

In the final reckoning, it matters much more what we shall talk about and what sort of settlement will emerge, than whom we talk to and with whom we finally reach a settlement — The Jerusalem Post.

Ozal appears to have lost magic touch

By John Owen-Davies
Reuter

ANKARA — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, humiliated in municipal elections, appears to have lost the magic touch that once saw him riding a wave of popularity expounding bold ideas for modernising Turkey.

As Monday dawned it became that his Motherland Party was no longer dominant and that the Ozal era, marked by economic liberalisation and a turning to the West, may be ending.

"He knew that the odds were against him in poll and that the old magic was not working," a party member said.

The Motherland Party trailed two others in vote-counting from Sunday's national local polls, a key test of Ozal's popularity amid discontent over rampant inflation.

"Perhaps Ozal can leave office and politics even before an early (general) election," political columnist Guner Ciavolu wrote in Sabah newspaper, reflecting the mood of many Turks.

Ozal has achieved much since he came to power as a technocrat in 1983 army-supervised elections after three years of military rule which crushed extremist violence and political mayhem.

"He has set in motion changes that are basically irreversible, especially on the financial side," said a Western diplomat.

But Ozal has lost his lustre. He showed little enthusiasm in campaigns for the local polls and their television addresses lacked their usual sparkle.

The Social Democrat Populist Party led in vote-counting with the centre-right True Path Party (DYP) second and Motherland trailing third.

Ozal seemed relaxed as he toured Ankara with his wife in their white Mercedes after polling, chatting to people in the street.

The stocky 61-year-old conservative, who applied in 1987 for full Turkish membership of the European Community, described his political career to Reuters last year as a political with gut instincts.

Ozal, spurred on by his family, has harboured ambitions for the presidency when Evren's seven-year term ends next November.

But the present election setback may differ such plans.

"I get a feeling in my stomach and I know it is right," he said. But in voting for mayors and assemblies in 2,000 cities and towns on which he was easily staked to have failed him.

"Ever since his heart operation in 1987 he has appeared to lose some enthusiasm for centre-stage politics," a Motherland source said.

A brief respite came after Ozal, a workaholic who sleeps five hours a night, was shot in the hand in an assassination attempt last June.

Party sources said Ozal, who started on the right and drifted to the centre, has been worn down by strife between his party's religious right and Western-style liberal wings. He favoured the liberals and made them dominant in the cabinet.

In the past year, as inflation rose briefly to 87 per cent, he became irritated with the party and turned to his family, including his influential wife Semra and two cabinet ministers, for advice.

The party was tainted by scandal in January when Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem resigned in the wake of banking irregularities in which he denied any wrongdoing.

Ozal's brother, State Minister Yusuf Ozal, took over the economic helm from Erdem and locked horns with the economic bureaucracy.

"Ozal was always able to appeal to the people that he was the only person capable of maintaining stability in Turkey," a diplomat said. "That was true up to the beginning of 1988. Now there are others also capable."

From the start Ozal had to struggle, mainly with the army establishment which had favoured another conservative party led by retired General Turgut Sunalp for the 1983 election.

But he won the respect of President Kenan Evren, though they were at odds on some issues.

Ozal, spurred on by his family, has harboured ambitions for the presidency when Evren's seven-year term ends next November. But the present election setback may differ such plans.

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Sacred and secular writings

LONDON — An outstanding exhibition in London, which brings together many rare and beautiful examples of calligraphy, some dating back over a thousand years, is being hailed as the most important event of its kind to be held in the English capital for years.

"*Islamic Calligraphy: Sacred and Secular writings*" contains rare and beautiful examples drawn from Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, India and Africa, from both galleries and private collections. The exhibition, which also received great acclaim last year in Geneva and Dublin, will transfer to Zurich and Amman later in 1989, after closing in London.

Speaking at the opening ceremony in London, Prince Amyn Aga Khan, brother of the Aga Khan and a director of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, said that of all art forms "Calligraphy holds pride of place as the foremost and perhaps most characteristic of the modes of visual expression in Islam." The tradition of calligraphy "started with the earliest written versions of the Koran in the mid-seventh century, gained speed between the ninth and tenth centuries... knew a slight decline with the spread of printing throughout the Muslim

world, but basically enjoyed ten centuries of uninterrupted growth and splendour. It is a tradition which still endures today among Muslims scattered across the far reaches of the globe," said Prince Amyn.

"Script is a binding artistic and visual medium between Muslims, through the Koran, and also between the various peoples and minorities forming the Muslim Umma. It thus constitutes a formal expression of Islam's universality and of its universal aspirations," the prince added.

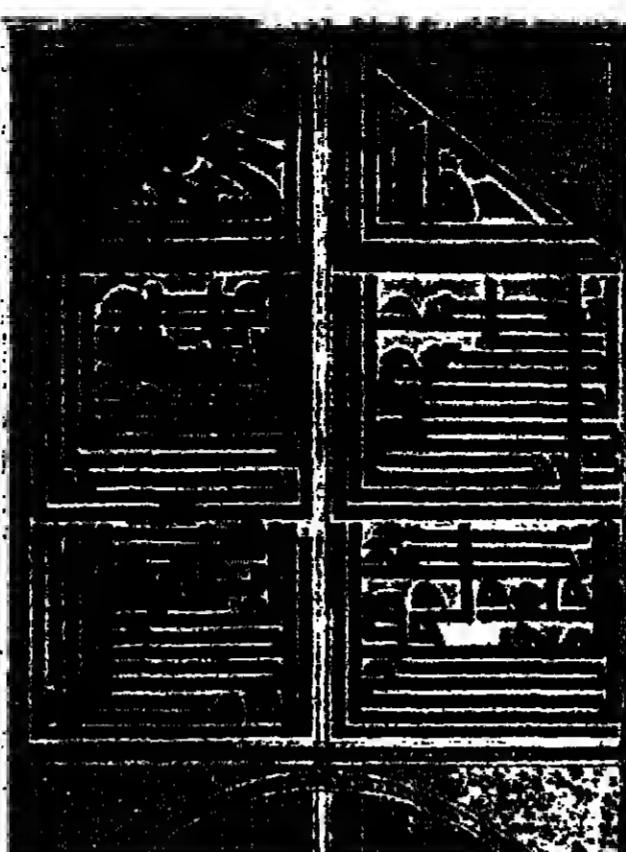
The art of writing was sanctified from the birth of Islam. The Prophet himself is believed to have said: "He who writes the basmalah well will enter paradise without difficulty." His son-in-law Ali Ibn Abu Tabb, fourth caliph is credited with being one of the first and finest of all calligraphers.

What made writing so important was the belief that the Holy Koran was the literal word of God, communicated to the Prophet. This belief caused calligraphy to absorb the creative genius which, in the West, went first into religious and then secular painting, sculpture and music. Calligraphy in Islam is truly the Queen of the Arts.

Western interest in Islamic calligraphy is relatively recent, whereas interest in other branches of Islamic art — rugs and painting for example — began long ago. Despite its undeniable importance, the idea that writing should act as the major receptacle for Islamic visual creativity is somehow hard for Westerners to appreciate. Perhaps one simple way to understand Islamic calligraphy is to draw an analogy — not with the visual art of the west, but with music, suggests David James, Islamic curator at Dublin's Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art. Music, like calligraphy, has its exact rules, system and method. But these alone will make neither a great pianist nor a great calligrapher. A touch of genius is required in both cases.

Calligraphers of old did not write with a quill or metal pen. They used a piece of cane or reed, cut in the marshes and left to lie for several weeks until supple enough to be sorted and trimmed for use. Young calligraphers were taught to identify a suitable piece of cane, to trim the nib and split the point to their personal requirement. A good pen was a cherished item. Sometimes it was handed on to a new

The Middle East



This talisman written in heavily stylised Kufic scripts consists of three separate parts, at the top and bottom are triangular and semi-circular panels bearing standard formulae, used amongst other things, for warding off the evil eye. The talisman probably originated in India, 18th/19 century.



A page of calligraphy from Iran. Under the first line, the work bears the signature of Fath Ali Shah Qajar, ruler of Iran from 1797 to 1834. His first line, which reads "My reed pen shames Jupiter (Lord of the Palms) and Mercury (Scribe of the heavens)" is repeated three times. Such repetition was a familiar test of the calligrapher's ability.

Anti-smoking campaigns create few ripples in tobacco industry

By Yasmin Arzuza
The Associated Press

MANILA — Business is booming for the country's multimillion-dollar tobacco industry despite vigorous anti-smoking campaigns that include locking up errant smokers.

Both the government and the cigarette industry refuse to release sales figures. But Mindy Gapuz, marketing manager of the national tobacco administration, said the government earned \$30 million in 1987 from tobacco exports. The figure is believed to have doubled last year.

About 50,000 Filipinos die each from smoking-related diseases, the Philippine Heart Centre for Asia says. Faced with that grim statistic, the department of health has endorsed legislation to ban cigarette advertising, limit sales outlets and prohibit cigarette sales to children under 16.

In addition, Philippine airlines has banned smoking on domestic flights. This month, Quezon city, the country's second-largest city, forbade smoking in most public places, and police locked up more than 300 offenders during the first two days of the ordinance.

President Corazon Aquino has forbidden smoking during cabinet meetings and other indoor gatherings she attends. Gruff presidential security guards strictly enforce her decree.

But officials of the tobacco administration, which regulates the industry, say congress and the administration appear reluctant to crack down on such a lucrative industry.

Although the anti-smoking bill was approved by the senate on first reading last May, it has not been brought to the floor for a required second approval because of pressure from farmers and industry groups.

Gapuz said that in addition to tobacco export revenue, the government earns about \$704 million a year from cigarette taxes — an average of more than \$12 for each of the 58 million residents.

At least 100,000 farmers rely on tobacco as their cash crop, she said. Tobacco farmers, who are assured of a steady market, earn about double what they would receive for growing rice and corn.

"That's why the government cannot decide on whether to push through with this anti-smoking bill or not," Gapuz said.

In the meantime, the bill's supporters, including the action for children and smoking, have launched an aggressive advertising campaign to discourage smoking and pressure congress into acting on the measure.

"The passage of (the bill) will save lives of Filipino children, of whom 2.5 million, or 8 per cent, are projected by the (World Health Organisation) to be killed by cigarettes," Action for Children and Smoking said in a recent statement.

Gapuz said cigarette manufac-

turers have responded to public pressure by marketing more "light" brands, which contain less nicotine and tar. She said manufacturers were willing to print

health warnings, but they have yet to do so.

Gapuz predicted it would take at least five years before public health consciousness could begin

to cut deeply into sales because smoking remains fashionable here and elsewhere in the Third World.

Although smoking has declined

in Europe and the United States, Gapuz said tobacco consumption rose 2.9 per cent worldwide last year due to increased smoking in developing countries.

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Evening outfit from Emanuel Ungaro, Paris. The printed metal matelassé was created by Abraham AG, Zurich.



The sophisticated look Ungaro, Laroche Valentino, yes, yes,

By Suzy Patterson
The Associated Press

PARIS — A curvy sophisticate stepped into the shoes of Ungaro's favourite sex kitten in his luxury ready-to-wear show.

The slightly relaxed look was evident in many more Ungaro trousers, especially beautiful in gray flannel; glen plaid or caviar tweed — often with bolero or battle-jacket toppers.

Ungaro's brown leather or shiny eggplant-shaded crocodile battle jackets were nothing less than impeccable. He gave leather a big play, in all kinds of black jackets, pants and very long full skirts.

Fabrics and colours got hotter as the daytime wear turned into evening. But one unforgettable beauty was the superb silver-gray long redingote coat with satin lapels over a draped gray lace and lame top and straight glen plaid pants.

Royal blue, fuchsia and flame whipcord fitted suits with flaring skirts, or piped satin coat-dress outfits made striking cocktail-to-evening transitions.

And Ungaro offered wonderful choices for evening: the fitted flowered brocade jackets with flowing black chiffon pants and blouses looked sumptuous. As usual, he mixed dressy materials like sequins, heavy lace and shocking pink taffeta in an outfit with a master's hand.

The Guy Laroche show featured two simple themes: tailored menswear lines for daytime, dressy and feminine clothes for later in the day.

After the show, Guy Douvier came out and took a bow with misty eyes. Laroche died in

February, and Angelo Tarlazzi will create the couture line while Douvier continues in ready-to-wear, which he has designed for some years now for Guy Laroche.

The straightforward collection featured lots of straight pants and skirts, topped by hooded full trapeze shetland coats in saffron orange, ochre and olive. Dressier coats shone in blazing red or royal blue, either cut with fullness or in long princess style with black velvet collars and buttons.

White suit and dress lengths and outlines were generally short and slim, the longer anthracite wool suit with trumpet-flared skirt and diagonally-fastened jackets was an interesting variation.

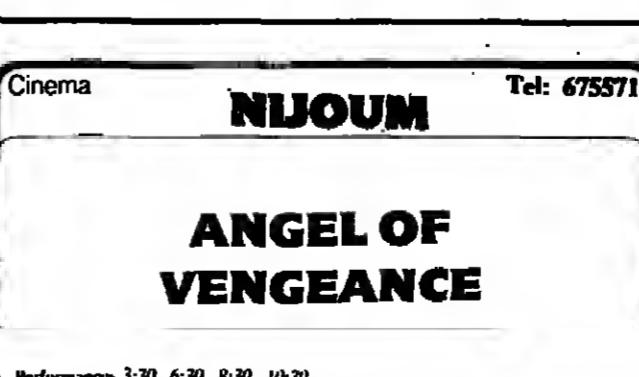
At Laroche, as all over Paris, there was plenty of red, in sleek soft wool day dresses, in beautiful pleated chiffons for evening.

Valentino's show of opulent clothes was an exercise in couture for women who like to look like a million dollars, though this is officially ready-to-wear week.

The Valentino silhouette was sleek as usual. A delicately curved female form was clothed in skirts to the knee or mid-calf, lots of narrow or fullish pants, short or long jackets, often fitted with ribbed darts in back.

Patchwork was scattered liberally throughout the collection, a fascination Valentino shared with Christian Lacroix, though at neither house does it have any resemblance to relics from grandmother's closet.

Valentino's patchwork story unfolded in suede and calf for daytime, richer silks at night. The designs were in geometrics, flowers, diamonds in shades like



Sports

Ping pong shoot out by Sweden and China

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden has 13,000 organized players. China has millions.

The numbers would seem to make it futile but the defiant Swedes intend to launch a strong European challenge to Asia's table tennis supremacy at the world championships in Dortmund, West Germany, starting Wednesday.

Sweden can boast Europe's top with reigning European singles champion Mikael Appelgren and the continent's second, third and fourth-ranked players, Jan-Ove Waldner, Erik Lindh and Jorgen Persson, who was the 1986 champion of Europe.

"There are three men's golds (team, singles, doubles) at stake in Dortmund and I hope one of them will go to Sweden," coach Glenn Osth told Reuters with characteristic Swedish caution.

Sweden's depth is astonishing for a country of only 8.4 million people where table tennis ranks far below national sports like ice hockey, skiing, soccer and tennis.

In addition to their four stars they are taking to West Germany the 1984 European singles champion Ulf Bengtsson, 1985 doubles world champion Ulf Carlsson and two young players rapidly moving up towards the elite — Thomas Von Scheele, 20, and Peter Karlsson, 19.

How did the Swedes succeed where nations such as West Germany, with 700,000 licensed players, have failed?

The answer, says Osth, boils down to the same basics which are behind the country's high-profile success in tennis — municipal sports facilities and dedicated unpaid coaches all over the country, team spirit, advanced training methods and a cool temperament.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHABIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

NONE BUT THE BOLD

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ K 4
♥ 9 3
♦ Q 9 7 4
* ♠ Q 7 5 3

WEST **EAST**
* ♠ Q 10 8 5 3 2 ♠ J 9 7 6

♦ 7 6 4 .. ♠ K 5

* ♠ K 3 .. ♠ A J 10 8 2

* ♠ A 10 .. ♠ 8 4

SOUTH
* ♠ A .. ♠ Q J 10 8 2

♦ 6 5 .. ♠ K 9 6 2

The bidding:

West North East South

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ 4 ♦

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five ♠

When a skilled player makes an unusual play you can assume that it is a good reason for it. If you can work out why something strange occurred, the cure can become obvious.

Any vulnerability, especially favorable, Eask would have been better advised to raise his partner's weak two-bid all the way to a two-way action—it might make, or it could jack up the auction to a

level where the opponents could not interfere.

West's opening lead of a low spade was taken by declarer's ace, and a club hit the table. That was a peculiar play with five clubs in the dummy, since it risked for an adverse ruff. West asked himself: Why didn't declarer draw trumps before playing on clubs? There was only one answer—Declarer had to have a hole in the trump suit.

That meant declarer had to have started with a singleton ace of spades. The club lead, therefore, had to be an attempt to get to the table for a discard on the king of spades, to be followed by a trump finesse. To prevent that desperate measure were called for, and West was up to the task. He rose with the ace of clubs and boldly shifted to the king of diamonds. A diamond to the ten, followed by the ace, cooked declarer's goose.

He was able to prevent an overruff by trumping with an honor, but West countered by discarding his remaining club. Declarer had no way to get to the board for the trump finesse, so he had to concede a trick to the king of hearts for down one.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Koreas resume Asian Games talks

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — Sports officials from South and North Korea resumed talks Tuesday on forming a joint team for the 1990 Asian Games. The two Koreas have been holding intermittent talks at various levels to try to improve relations on the divided peninsula. Both sides say they want to end their long and bitter rivalry. But separate talks between parliamentary delegations and negotiations between senior government officials were stalled by North Korean demands last month that the South call off annual joint military exercises with U.S. forces. The United States has some 43,000 troops based in South Korea under a mutual defense treaty against the North. South Korean leaders say the troops are needed to ensure their nation's defense. Past attempts to form joint Korean teams for international sports events failed, with the two sides unable to agree on a name for the team, which national flag it should use and other issues. North Korea boycotted the 1988 summer Olympics and the 1986 Asian Games, both held in Seoul.

The idea is to provide free facilities and training to all youngsters. There are no separate sports schools for high-pressure coaching, as in the east bloc, because the Swedes want to avoid early burn-out.

But when a talented player decides to make an all-out effort in a particular sport, usually in his mid-teens, he is supported in every way and allowed to spend the country's obligatory six months to a year military service in a special sports unit.

"We've also been lucky to produce a bunch of good players at the same time. They, of course, spur each other in tough domestic competition," Osth said.

"We're a small country. Everybody knows everybody — players, coaches, officials. And team spirit is a tremendous asset in table tennis," Osth said.

"We are the Chinese of Europe. We train the hardest and others try to copy our methods. Our technical training, which breaks down the game into pieces we work on separately, is the envy of other Europeans," he added.

Osth sees Dortmund as the best chance his team may ever get to repeat Sweden's glorious performance against stiff Chinese competition at the 1973 world championships in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

Kjell Johansson and Stellan Bengtsson, who was world singles champion two years earlier in Japan, won the men's doubles and led Sweden to victory in the team event.

Injured jockey regains consciousness

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong champion jockey Bart Leisher, seriously injured in a fall during a race Saturday, has regained consciousness, hospital officials said Tuesday. Leisher, a South African who was Hong Kong's champion jockey with 56 winners last year, was kicked in the head after falling from super treasure at Sha Tin race track in the British colony's new territories. He went into a coma and doctors operated to remove a blood clot on his brain. A hospital spokesman said: "He opened his eyes for a moment. He recognised his brothers and his girlfriend, Nancy, and spoke their names."

Britain wins international bike series

CASTLE DONINGTON, England (AP) — Team captain Roger Burnett won two races Monday as Britain wrapped up a comfortable victory in the EuroAtlantic Motorcycle Challenge that pits British riders against competitors from North America and the rest of Europe. Burnett claimed five victories on his Honda in the nine-race series that began Friday. He won once on Friday at the Brands Hatch race track in Southeast England and twice each Sunday and Monday at Donington Park. The British team overwhelmed its EuroAtlantic visitors by a final score of 2,615 to 1,507, with the only non-British victory coming Monday from Honda rider Andreas Hofmann of Switzerland. Burnett also picked up 6,000 pounds (\$30,000) for being the highest point-scorer in the series with 262. Hofmann was second and collected 5,000 pounds (\$28,500), while Britain's Terry Rymer — who won the other three races — was third overall and pocketed 4,750 pounds (\$28,000).

Champion Bulatova fails to show

DORTMUND (R) — European champion Fluria Bulatova has failed to arrive for the World Table Tennis Championships after an official row at the European top 12 tournament last month, organisers said Tuesday. The Soviet delegation for the world championships, which open Wednesday, had arrived without Bulatova, Europe's top-ranked woman, the organisers said. Bulatova did not play her final matches at the European top 12 per cent in Charleroi, Belgium, after a dispute between her coach and the referee over a point that had to be replayed during her seventh match.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By the Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Matters may feel a lot more serious today than yesterday. Strong desires for movement and travel may bring added traffic. It is a high stress day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are still hitched to that lucky star. An expansive cycle exists in business and personal relationships. Enjoy what you do.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A confidential conversation may be overheard by the wrong person. The accent is on your career and personal development.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Romance could be so close that you can feel it, and yet so elusive that you can't tell. Watch your space carefully.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Lay foundations for new projects. The accent is on domestic affairs and security. A lot will be accomplished the next few days.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid contracts and written agreements. A new and revised system can help smooth out work routines. Financial matters are running in neutral.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't let disappointment over one

small matter affect your day. If irrelevant people cloud your life, it is time to throw the trash overboard.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Protect yourself with good living habits. Added energy will lift your spirits. Spend time with personal pursuits and creative endeavors.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Keep a realistic view of your personal progress and how much control you have over your life. Moderation will lead to success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Cultural activities, romance and social contacts can have you humoring a new tune. Physical exercise can help you feel great.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Tell a loved one how much you care for him. Placing potential losses high for those who are ready for the giant leap.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are in a positive, but somewhat quirky, mood. Added rest is needed to continue an eventful pace. Sibling attention receives a warm welcome.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A relationship changes from good to better. There is an end in sight over a temporary crisis. Outside pressures put affection on hold.

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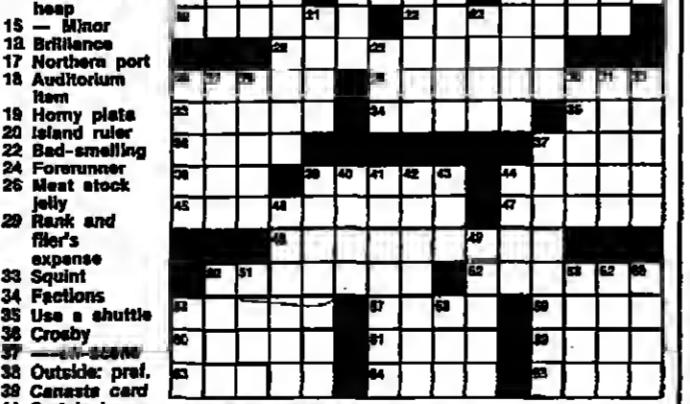
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THE Daily Crossword

by James Berwick



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

SITES	PLAIN	CHIAP
LICIN	BLASIO	NIHIL
ALFRED	ETERIC	DEISTAE
YOUNGSTER	VIET	YOUNGSTER
ROBERT	LEAF	LEAF
ADRIEN	APPROX	ADRIEN
ADDU	ADRIEN	BALAD
POLA	SHIBOLETH	POLA
SHIBOLETH	SHIBOLETH	SHIBOLETH
PELTON	PIPER	PELTON
PROTIN	SEINE	PROTIN
EEB	WIGAND	EEB
WIGAND	WIGAND	WIGAND
YANN	ARMIE	YANN
AGREE	AIRED	AGREE
LYBES	BEED	LYBES
REED	THMAS	REED

Answer here:

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Herb Arnold and Bob Lee

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RAYIF

VORLE

DERAAP

BIDIT

DO THEM

ANSWER

YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

RAVEN PIECE REVERE SMILE

ANSWER



Unrest continues to grip Kosovo which has witnessed riots since Feb. 28. One million persons paraded in the street last month after the

Kosovo Communist Party resigned under pressure from striking miners.

Kosovo death toll hits 21 as Serbia tightens grip

BELGRADE (R) — Eighteen people have been killed in ethnic Albanian riots in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, the region's Information Ministry said Tuesday.

Deputy Minister Marija Gasi told reporters in the provincial capital of Pristina that 19 demonstrators and two policemen had been killed Monday and Tuesday during increasingly violent protests over new limits on Kosovo's autonomy.

She said scores of people had been injured on both sides.

Gasi said a demonstrator was shot by police when 500 rioters attacked them in Zara, a village on the Albanian border.

She said the 18-year-old man was the first person to be killed by police, but did not make clear how the other protesters died.

Innocent bystanders were among the injured, she said.



Filipinos vote amid violence

MANILA (AP) — At least 15 people were killed as voters chose village leaders Tuesday in halting the government's efforts to restore democracy in the nation.

However, the military claimed rebels would use the elections to expand their control in rural areas.

Voters in more than 41,000 villages and urban districts chose about 287,567 council members from more than 860,000 candidates in the fourth nationwide balloting since President Corazon Aquino took power three years ago.

Although there were several reports of remote villages failing to hold elections because of intimidation from unidentified armed groups, election officials said it would take several days for official reports on the incidents to reach Manila.

Election officials were expected to complete the vote counting Wednesday.

Aquino, who voted in Tarlac Province, north of Manila, urged Filipinos to pray for "a very peaceful and orderly election."

A compilation of military, government and regional election reports showed at least 15 people died in election-related incidents, but no major disturbances were reported.

The military said gunmen killed one person and wounded

is rich in natural resources. Officials said a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed in Kosovo Monday applied without exception and included vehicles.

A ban on gathering in groups is being strictly enforced, residents in Pristina, 200 kilometres south of Belgrade, said.

The reported death toll after six days of rioting exceeds the official tally of nine dead in Albanian separatist riots in 1981, which led to the brief imposition of martial law.

Protesters have ransacked buildings and cars, smashed shop fronts, stoned police, and sometimes fired on them in the street and from rooftops and balconies. "The intention was obviously to provoke larger scale armed clashes," Tanjic said.

Soldiers joined police in some places to disperse crowds. Un-

confirmed reports said troops and tanks were on the move in Kosovo and that one town was sealed off by the army.

On Tuesday's riots erupted in the towns of Prizren, Zur, Dusanov, Orahovac and Podujevo.

Helicopters circled over Pris-

tina and police armoured cars patrolled the streets. Wearing bullet-proof jackets and carrying automatic weapons, police were stationed throughout the town with tear gas launchers.

While battles raged in Kosovo, the constitutional changes were proclaimed in Belgrade and the president of Serbia's parliament, Borisav Jovic, called it a "Festive, joyous and historic day" for his republic.

The changes took away much of the autonomy granted to Kosovo.

Gorbachev has Raisa, but what about Fidel?

HAVANA (R) — When Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visits Cuba next week, a major figure will be missing — a Cuban first lady.

Gorbachev's stylish wife Raisa enjoys international recognition but President Fidel Castro is never seen with an official female companion on public occasions.

Castro travels overseas, greets foreign visitors, attends receptions at the ornate palace of the revolution with no first lady at his side.

Foreign visitors almost always ask whether Castro is married. If he is, the marriage is a closely guarded secret.

Such questions are not addressed in the state-controlled media. Cubans who might be in a position to know about Castro's personal life keep their lips sealed.

Castro was married from 1948-55. Rumours persist that he has a second wife who bore him two children, a son and daughter, now between the ages of 20 and 25.

Nobody is prepared to comment on the matter and Cuban government officials hint it would be considered bad taste for a journalist to search for an answer.

But for the purposes of Gorbachev's trip, which starts Sunday, one woman may fleetingly assume the role of first lady and play host to Raisa.

The wife of Castro's younger brother and designated successor Raul, Vilma Espin, is a full member of the Communist Party Polit-

buro and has headed the Cuban Women's Federation since it was founded more than 25 years ago.

In 1948 Fidel Castro married Mirtha Diaz-Balart, a fellow student at the University of Havana. They had a son a year later, but divorced in 1955, the year Castro exiled himself to Mexico.

From then on, his relations with women formed part of unofficial history clouded by anecdotes and rumours.

It is known he had a Cuban girlfriend while in exile in Mexico in 1956 who bore him a daughter.

According to knowledgeable Cubans, he fathered several other children with different women, just before or after the January 1959 triumph of the revolution.

It is understood these children bear the last name Castro and were educated in regular Cuban schools.

One woman stood out for her public and undoubtedly close relationship with Castro, Celia Sanchez.

Her involvement in the revolution dated back to the mid-1950s. For many years, she was, in the words of one of his biographers, "the most important person in his life."

"Celia Sanchez Manduley was 36 years old, unmarried, extremely intelligent and efficient, dark-haired, attractive without being beautiful, and wholly dedicated to the ideals of the 26th of July Movement as defined by Castro," Tad Szulc wrote in "Fidel: A Critical Portrait."

After a series of accidents during construction of the Erawan hotel, "Spirit doctors" had a four-faced statue of the Hindu deity Brahma erected in a corner of the site and the hotel was completed without further delay.

The hotel has since been torn down and a modern one is being built on the spot. But the shrine will remain, hearing prayers for high examination grades, bumper harvests, lucrative business deals, good health and lost possessions such as books and car keys.

"We came to ask for a happy married life and all the good things it can bring," said nurse Nida Chaiachum, 21, clutching the hand of the man she married less than a year ago.

"I go every week before I start work to ask for generous men," said Nida Chaiachum, 16, who said she worked in a bar in a Bangkok red light district.

As they speed past the corner, car drivers and motorcyclists often let go of the steering wheel to raise their hands in quick prayer.

Married couples visit the shrine to ask for children. Love, in various forms, is a major topic.

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Thais pray for money, love, health at Bangkok shrine

By Drew Torchia
Reuter

BANGKOK — On a noisy street corner in central Bangkok, Jarassri Jaideang kneels and places lotus buds before the image of a Hindu god she says found her a job.

Every day hundreds of Thais pray for money, love and health at the Erawan shrine, one of the most revered sites of worship in this Buddhist nation. Hundreds more give thanks after having their prayers answered.

"You can say the shrine saved my life," said Jarassri. 28, who came to Bangkok from the far northern town of

Chiang Rai 10 months ago in search of work.

Like many migrants to the capital, Jarassri found life in Bangkok harsher than she had expected. She spent six months looking for full-time work, worrying that she would have to return to her family's grocery store in Chiang Rai.

Four months ago she went to the shrine on a friend's recommendation. Several weeks later she found a job in a small sewing shop, earning \$80 a month.

"It got me a good job after I started by myself and found nothing," Jarassri said. "It let me stay in Bangkok."

The shrine was built in 1956

after a series of accidents during construction of the Erawan hotel. "Spirit doctors" had a four-faced statue of the Hindu deity Brahma erected in a corner of the site and the hotel was completed without further delay.

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Sweeping election defeat sparks Kremlin concern

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet newspapers indicated Kremlin concern Tuesday at the crushing victory of rebel Communist Boris Yeltsin and the defeat of senior Communist officials in national polls across the country.

The capital's party newspaper, Moskovskaya Pravda, accused by Yeltsin campaigners of vilifying their candidate during the campaign, published results of Sunday's district elections on its front page.

But news of Yeltsin's 90 per cent vote was relegated to a small report at the foot of page two.

The national party daily Pravda reported Yeltsin's victory, but did not give his share of the vote.

The cursory references to Yeltsin's victory and absence of any commentaries appeared to suggest clearly that the party was

seriously shaken by the scale of the defeats.

More than half a dozen senior Communist officials failed to win their seats in the first contested general election in 70 years.

The results also showed senior party officials in the Baltic republics trounced by members of emerging mass movements and regional leaders in the Ukraine beaten by radical reformers.

The most senior casualty was Lemnograd regional party chief Yuri Solov'yov, a junior member of the party's ruling Politburo, who was defeated along with the city party leader Anatoly Gerashimov and the Communist mayor Vladimir Khodyrev.

All three are members of the party's policy-making Central Committee.

In the Ukraine, two top aides

to senior Politburo member Vladimir Shcherbitsky failed to win election as well as party leaders from five regions of the republic.

The party could draw little consolation even from its victories.

An official of the Dnepropetrovskaya Pravda told Reuters by telephone Tuesday that Shcherbitsky, widely regarded as a conservative, had won though.

Shcherbitsky had no challenger for his seat in the Dnepropetrovsk region of the Ukraine. But almost 63,000 of the 240,000 voters registered a protest by crossing out his name on the ballot form.

The election had strong symbolic significance since Dnepropetrovsk was the power base of the disgraced former Kremlin chief Leonid Brezhnev.

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